of Parliament and over 500 experts, artistes and organizations. However, no time limit can be specified at this point of time for the evolution of a National Cultural Policy though the approach in the matter will be consensual.

Request for refusal of allocation

3265. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some request of State Government of Himachal Pradesh for refund of Rs. 31.45 crores deducted by the Ministry from the Central plan allocations of the State Government during 1994-95, 1995-96 1996-97 and 1997-98 is pending;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date of its pendency;

(c) whether Government propose to settle the long issue now; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Involvement of liquor barons in FERA violations

3266. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Enforcement Directorate at New Delhi has served notice to M/s United Breweries for alleged Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) violations to the tune of crores of rupees;

(b) whether Government are aware that several liquor manufacturers in the country are grossly involved in FERA violations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government propose to take to check involvement of liquor barons in the FERA violations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir. No show cause notice has been issued to Messers United Breweries by the Enforcement Directorate for alleged violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act. However, the Enforcement Directorate in investigating two cases against Messers United Breweries Limited.

(b) Apart from Messers United Breweries Limited, another liquor manufacturing company *viz.*, Messers Seagram (India) (P) Limited, is also under investigation by the Enforcement Directorate under the provisions of FERA, 1973.

(c) So far as Messers United Breweries Limited is concerned, one case pertains to entering into agreement with Messers Benetton Formula Limited, London for a particular business purpose and the second case pertains to running of a T.V. Channel by Shri Vijay Mallaya, Chairman of the Company for which transponder and uplinking charges were paid by a company at Singapore on behalf of United Breweries Limited.

In the case of Messers Seagram (India) (P) Limited, it is alleged that (i) a free Loan from Messers Seagram International BV, Netherlands has been taken; (ii) it has received share capital from Seagram International BV, Netherlands and (iii) it has received some amount reportedly without permision from the R.B.I., from Seagram International BV, Netherlands.

The Enforcement Directorate investigates the cases which comes to its notice and action is initiated if violation of FERA is found to have been committed.

Setting up of the Headquarters of IRDA

3267. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been considering to set up the headquarters of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority at Bangalore or Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter, indicating the merits and demerits of setting up the Headquarters at once of the other place; and

(c) the concerned State Governments response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) is presently located in Delhi. Government has constituted the Authority on 19th April, 2000 with the appointment of Chairperson and two whole time Members. Government has received requests